AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A device-to-device authentication system <u>for authenticating one or more devices on a local area network connectable to an external network via a router as a default gateway</u>, the system comprising:

<u>a storage unit configured to store</u> ~~means for holding~~ a media access control address of a default gateway; and

<u>a</u> local environment management <u>unit configured to determine</u> ~~means for determining~~ when a ~~home~~ <u>local area</u> network of a first device and a ~~home~~ <u>local area</u> network of a second device are the same ~~home~~ <u>local area</u> network by comparing a source media access control address to the media access control address of the default gateway<u>, wherein the first device comprises:</u>

<u>a unit configured to receive a request for access from the second device;</u>

<u>a unit configured to permit the request when it is determined that the first device and the second device are on the same local area network; and</u>

<u>a unit configured to refuse the request when it is not determined that the first device and the second device are on the same local area network</u>.

2. (Currently Amended) The device-to-device authentication system according to claim 1,

wherein the first device is a home server for legitimately acquiring content, and the second device is a client for making a request for the content to the home server; and

wherein, in response to determining the devices are both on the same ~~home~~ local area network, the home server provides the content or issues a license for the content to the client.

3. (Currently Amended) The device-to-device authentication system according to claim 1,

wherein the first device is one of two or more home servers installed on the ~~home~~ local area network of the first device;

wherein the second device is a client; and

wherein one or more of the two or more home servers can provide the content or issue a license for the content to the client when it is determined to be on the same ~~home~~ local area network.

4. (Currently Amended) The device-to-device authentication system according to claim 3,

wherein the client is able to receive a provision of the content or issuance of the license for the content from one or more of the two or more home servers on the same ~~home~~ local area network.

5. (Currently Amended) The device-to-device authentication system according to claim 3,

wherein the client is able to use the content acquired from the two or more home servers on the same ~~home~~ local area network, and, upon connection to a home server on a second ~~home~~ local area network, the client is not able to use the content acquired from the two or more home servers on the same ~~home~~ local area network.

6. (Canceled).

7. (Currently Amended) A device-to-device authentication system <u>for authenticating one or more devices on a local area network connectable to an external network via a router as a default gateway</u>, the system comprising:

<u>a storage unit configured to store</u> ~~means for storing~~ identification information identifying a ~~home~~ local area network of a first device and a ~~home~~ local area network of a second device; and

<u>a unit configured to determine</u> ~~means for determining~~ when the ~~home~~ local area network of the first device and the ~~home~~ local area network of the second device are the same ~~home~~ local area network by comparing the identification information identifying the ~~home~~ local area network of the first device to the identification information identifying the ~~home~~ local area network of the second device,

wherein the ~~home~~ local area network of the first device and the ~~home~~ local area network of the second device are determined to be the same ~~home~~ local area network when the comparison determines the information identifying the ~~home~~ local area

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network of the first device and the identification information indentifying the ~~home~~ local

area network of the second device are the same,

wherein the first device comprises:

a unit configured to receive a request for access from the second device;

a unit configured to permit the request when it is determined that the first

device and the second device are on the same local area network; and

a unit configured to refuse the request when it is not determined that the

first device and the second device are on the same local area network.

8. (Currently Amended) The device-to-device authentication system according to

claim 7,

wherein the first device and the second device acquire a media access control

address of a router set as a default gateway as the identification information identifying

the ~~home~~ local area network of the first device and the second device; and

whether or not the ~~home~~ local area network of the first device and the ~~home~~ local

area network of second device are the same ~~home~~ local area network is determined

based on whether or not the first device and the second device have the same media

access control address of the default gateway.

9. (Currently Amended) The device-to-device authentication system according to

claim 7, further comprising:

a local environment management apparatus located on the ~~home~~ local area

network of the first device and the ~~home~~ local area network of the second device for

supplying the identification information;

wherein the first device and second device acquire a media access control

address of the local environment management apparatus as identification information

identifying the ~~home~~ local area network; and

wherein whether or not the home network of the first device and the home

network of second device are the same ~~home~~ local area network is determined based

on whether or not the first device and the second device have the same media access

control address of the local environment management apparatus.

10. (Currently Amended) A device-to-device authentication method for

authenticating one or more devices on a local area network connectable to an external

network via a router as a default gateway, the method comprising:

holding a media access control address of a default gateway; ~~and~~

determining when a ~~home~~ local area network of a first device and a ~~home~~ local

area network of a second device are the same ~~home~~ local area network by comparing a

source media access control address to the media access control address of the default

gateway;

wherein the first device performs a method comprising:

receiving a request for access from the second device;

permitting the request when it is determined that the first device and the

second device are on the same local area network; and

refusing the request when it is not determined that the first device and the

second device are on the same local area network.

11. (Currently Amended) The device-to-device authentication method according

to claim 10,

wherein the first device is a home server for legitimately acquiring the content,

and the second device is a client for making a the request for the content to the home

server for use; and

wherein, in response to determining the first device and the second device are on

the same home local area network in the local environment management step, the

home server provides the content and/or issues a license for the content to the client.

12. (Currently Amended) The device-to-device authentication method according

to claim 10,

wherein the first device is one of two or more home servers installed on the home

local area network of the first device;

wherein the second device is a client; and

wherein one or more of the two or more home servers can provide the content or

issue a the license for the content to the client when it is determined to be on the same

home local area network.

13. (Currently Amended) The device-to-device authentication method according

to claim 12,

wherein the client is able to receive a provision of the content or issuance of the

license for the content from the two or more home servers on the same ~~home~~ local area

network.

14. (Currently Amended) The device-to-device authentication method according

to claim 12,

wherein the client is able to use the content acquired from the two or more home

servers on the same ~~home~~ local area network, and, upon connection to a home server

on a second ~~home~~ local area network, the client is not able to use the content acquired

from the two or more home servers on the ~~home~~ local area network.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Currently Amended) A device-to-device authentication method <u>for</u>

<u>authenticating one or more devices on a local area network connectable to an external</u>

<u>network via a router as a default gateway</u>, <u>the method</u> comprising:

storing identification information identifying a ~~home~~ local area network of a first

device and a home network of a second device; ~~and~~

determining when the ~~home~~ local area network of the first device and the ~~home~~

local area network of the second device are the same ~~home~~ local area network by

comparing the identification information identifying the ~~home~~ local area network of the

first device to the identification information identifying the ~~home~~ local area network of

the second device, wherein the ~~home~~ local area network of the first device and the

~~home~~ local area network of the second device are determined to be the same network

when the comparison determines the information identifying the ~~home~~ local area

network of the first device and the identification information indentifying the ~~home~~ local

area network of the second device are the same;

wherein the first device performs a method comprising:

receiving a request for access from the second device;

permitting the request when it is determined that the first device and the

second device are on the same local area network; and

refusing the request when it is not determined that the first device and the

second device are on the same local area network.

17. (Currently Amended) The device-to-device authentication method according

to claim 16, further comprising:

acquiring by the first device and the second device a media access control

address of a router set as a default gateway as identification information regarding the

~~home~~ local area network of the first device and the second device; and

wherein whether or not the ~~home~~ local area network of the first device and the

~~home~~ local area network of second device are the same ~~home~~ local area network is

determined based on whether or not the first device and the second device have the

same media access control address of the default gateway.

18. (Currently Amended) The device-to-device authentication method according

to claim 16, wherein:

a local environment management apparatus is located on the ~~home~~ local area

network of the first device and the ~~home~~ local area network of the second device for

supplying the identification information; and

the first device and the second device acquire a media access control address of

the local environment management apparatus as identification information regarding the

~~home~~ local area network; and

whether or not the ~~home~~ local area network of the first device and the ~~home~~ local

area network of second device are the same ~~home~~ local area network is determined

based on whether or not the first device and the second device have the same media

access control address of the local environment management apparatus.

19. (Currently Amended) A communication apparatus, comprising:

a storage unit configured to store ~~mean for holding~~ a media access control

address of a default gateway; ~~and~~

a local environment management unit configured to determine ~~means for

determining~~ when a ~~home~~ local area network of a device and a ~~home~~ local area network

of the communication apparatus are the same ~~home~~ local area network by comparing a

source media access control address to the media access control address of the default

gateway;

a unit configured to receive a request for access from the device;

a unit configured to permit the request when it is determined that the device and

the communication apparatus are on the same local area network; and

a unit configured to refuse the request when it is not determined that the device

and the communication apparatus are on the same local area network.

20. (Currently Amended) The communication apparatus according to claim 19,

wherein the communication apparatus operates as a home server for providing

content on the ~~home~~ local area network of the communication apparatus; and

wherein the communication apparatus further comprises a content-provision

~~means for providing~~ unit to provide content or issuing a license for the content only

when the communication apparatus and the device are determined to be on the same

~~home~~ local area network.

21-24. (Cancelled).

25. (Currently Amended) A communication apparatus comprising:

a unit configured to store ~~means for storing~~ identification information identifying a

~~home~~ local area network of the communication apparatus and a ~~home~~ local area

network of a device; ~~and~~

a unit configured to determine ~~means for determining~~ when the ~~home~~ local area

network of the communication apparatus and the ~~home~~ local area network of the device

are the same ~~home~~ local area network by comparing the identification information

identifying the ~~home~~ local area network of the communication apparatus to the

identification information identifying the ~~home~~ local area network of the device, wherein

the ~~home~~ local area network of the communication apparatus and the ~~home~~ local area

network of the device are determined to be the same network when the comparison

determines the information identifying the ~~home~~ local area network of the

communication apparatus and the identification information indentifying the ~~home~~ local

area network of the device are the same;

a unit configured to receive a request for access from the device;

a unit configured to permit the request when it is determined that the device and

the communication apparatus are on the same local area network; and

a unit configured to refuse the request when it is not determined that the device

and the communication apparatus are on the same local area network.

26. (Currently Amended) The communication apparatus according to claim 25,

wherein ~~the local environment management means~~ the determining unit acquires

a media access control address of a router set as a default gateway as identification

information identifying the ~~home~~ local area network of the communication apparatus

and the ~~home~~ local area network of the device; and

wherein whether or not the device is on the same ~~home~~ local area network is

determined based on whether or not the device and the communication apparatus

acquire the same media access control address of the default gateway.

27. (Currently Amended) The communication apparatus according to claim 25,

wherein a local environment management apparatus for supplying network

identification information is installed on the ~~home~~ local area network of the

communication apparatus and the ~~home~~ local area network of the device; and

the local environment management ~~means~~ apparatus acquires a media access

control address of the local environment management apparatus as identification

information regarding the ~~home~~ local area network of the communication apparatus and

the ~~home~~ local area network of the device; and

whether or not the device is on the same ~~home~~ local area network is determined

based on whether or not the device and the communication apparatus acquire the same

media access control address of the local environment management apparatus.

28. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium, storing a computer

program for causing a processor to execute a method for providing content to a first

device on a ~~home~~ local area network, the method comprising:

determining when the first device and a second device are both on the ~~home~~

local area network by comparing a source media access control address to a media

access control address of a default gateway; ~~and~~

receiving a request for access from the first device;

permitting the request when it is determined that the first device and the second

device are on the same local area network;

refusing the request when it is not determined that the first device and the

second device are on the same local area network; and

providing content or issuing a license for the content to the first device by the

second device if the first device and the second device are on the ~~home~~ local area

network.

29. (New) A communication apparatus comprising:

a storage unit configured to store a media access control address of a default gateway;

a local environment management unit configured to determine when a local area network of a device and a local area network of the communication apparatus are the same local area network by comparing a source media access control address to the media access control address of the default gateway; and

a unit configured to send a request for access to the device,

wherein the request is permitted when it is determined that the device and the communication apparatus are on the same local area network and the request is refused when it is not determined that the device and the communication apparatus are on the same local area network.

30. (New) The communication apparatus according to claim 29, wherein the communication apparatus operates as a client for making a request for content to a home server for use on the local area network of the communication apparatus;

wherein the communication apparatus further comprises a content-using unit configured to receive a provision of content or issuance of a license for the content only when the device is the home server and determined to be on the same home network.

31. (New) The communication apparatus according to claim 30,

wherein two or more home servers are able to be installed on the

local area network of the communication apparatus.

32. (New) The communication apparatus according to claim 30,

wherein the content-using unit is able to use the content acquired from a plurality

of home servers on the local area network of the communication apparatus, and, upon

connection to a home server on a second local area network, the client is not able to

use the content acquired from the home servers on the local area network of the

communication apparatus.